suspended two of its officials and the branch officials who were connected with the gold bullion business had been shifted out of the branch. The bank has also reported that the case has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation, who have started their investigations.

Circulation of Fake Currency Notes

† 1748. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency notes are still in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete steps to check it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B ALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Union Government has taken a number of steps to curb the circulation of fake currency notes which, *inter-alia,* include setting up a special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes, scaling up vigilance by the Border Security Force/ Custom Authorities to prevent smuggling of such currency notes into the country; incorporation of special security features in higher denomination notes and dissemination of information on security features through print media and Doordarshan for benefit of public. Further, a High Level Technical Committee of Experts with representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council Sectt., Reserve Bank of India and the Printing Presses has been constituted for examining the whole gamut of problem caused by circulation of fake currency notes.

Establishing National Rural Bank of India

† 1749.SHRI KRJPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of rural banks of the country are performing well and the association of the employees of rural banks *i.e.,* All India Rural

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.